

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

April 27, 2011

The CODI Meeting was called to order by Ron Fulton, First Vice -Chairman at 1:45 pm. He thanked Pedro and Angie Rodriguez for hosting the Retreat and the CODI meeting. Roll call was done.

Attendance: **District 1 Commissioner Jordan:** John Miller; Excused Absence
District 2 Commissioner Monestine: Vacant CODI Seat
District 3 Commissioner Edmonson: Jose Granda; Present
District 4 Commissioner Heyman: Sandra Hix; Present
District 5 Commissioner Barreiro: Jose "Ernie Martinez (Chair); Present
District 6 Commissioner Sosa: Pedro Rodriguez; Present
District 7 Vacant Commission Seat: Jackson David; Excused Absence
District 8 Commissioner Bell: Paul Edwards; Present
District 9 Commissioner Moss: Ron Fulton; Present
District 10 Commissioner Souto: Dr. Sam Kohlenberg; Present
District 11 Commissioner Martinez: Denise Valkema; Present
District 12 Commissioner Diaz: Vacant CODI Seat
District 13 Vacant Commission Seat: Vacant CODI Seat

Absences: Two members were absent. **Announcements:** There were no announcements

Motion made by Pedro Rodriguez and seconded by Paul Edwards to approve the agenda but to table the discussion until Chairman Martinez arrives. Motion passed. A motion was made by Paul Edwards and seconded by Pedro Rodriguez to pass the January and February CODI minutes. The Motion passed unanimously. A second motion was made by Paul Edwards and seconded by Pedro Rodriguez to approve the March 2011 minutes which had been sent out previously to CODI members. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Martinez, who arrived and took over the meeting, asked for a motion to be made that would reconsider the passage of the January and February minutes because he felt there were some inaccuracies. No motion was made. The agenda had been tabled but since the Chairman had arrived there was discussion on the agenda. Mr. Rodriguez has a concern over the quantity and complexity of the agenda and the time limits imposed. It was also stated by Mr. Edwards that the format of the agenda is hard for someone to read who uses a screen reader. There was general discussion of where on the agenda to put the open forum and announcement. **A Motion was made by Paul Edwards and seconded by Pedro Rodriguez to add to the agenda a report by the Membership Committee. Motion passed.**

Chairman's Report: Mr. Martinez reported that Ysela LLort, an Assistant County Manager will be taking over all operational decisions – making on a day-to-day basis for Miami-Dade Transit. Mr. Martinez said that there were some other actions at STS but the service remains the same.

Committee Reports: Outreach and Access report: Mr. David was absent from the meeting so no report was given.
Transportation report: Denise Valkema, Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee, reported that at their April committee meeting they discussed English Proficiency. A letter has been written and will be sent out this week to ATS and the providers reminding them of the need to screen potential para-transit drivers as to their English proficiency. Mr. Naiditch from ATS had said that he will be incorporating the English questions that CODI had presented to him in his training and that cards will be made for the para-transit vehicles in three languages also reflecting the questions that CODI had developed. Ms. Valkema said that the committee will be following this issue to see if the training and cards will improve the communication between English speaking riders and drivers who are not native English speakers. Sandra Hix, co-Chair of the Committee, asked about receiving complaint responses in alternate format. Ilene Hyams, from the ADA Office, said that it is an obligation of the County, when requested, to have information in accessible format. She mentioned that her office does the Braille requests for the County. Denise Valkema and Sandra Hix have agreed to postpone the May 2nd Transportation meeting at the request of the ADA Office because the ADA office is moving from their present location. Denise Valkema asked the Chairman about the status of the letters to the BCC and the Regional Transportation Committee; the Chair said that he needs an extension until next week because he has some questions that need to be answered. **Housing report:** Pedro Rodriguez, Co-chair of the Committee expressed regret that he was unable to schedule a meeting due to the opening of SCLAD's new building and the moving of his office into the new building. They plan on having a Housing meeting in May. **Membership report:** Dr. Kohlenberg, Chairman of the

Committee, reported that the committee had met and had recommended that Marilyn Larrieu's name be brought forward to Commissioner Diaz, District 12 and Jennifer Pina's name be brought forward to Commission seat 13. Commission seat 13 is presently vacant but should be filled by the voters next month. **Motion was made by Sam Kohlenberg and seconded by Paul Edwards. The motion was passed after some discussion.** Mr. Edwards asked a question about the bylaws concerning membership. Ms. Hyams noted that the bylaws didn't reflect the way CODI has been sending names to the Commissioners. It was suggested that the bylaws be reviewed and possible be updated. **A motion was made by Sandra Hix and seconded by Denise Valkema to have an Ad Hoc committee chaired by Paul Edwards to review the CODI Bylaws. The Motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Valkema asked to be on that committee.

Old Business:

Application for Disability Parking Permits: This was an issue brought up by Alan Rigerman. Ilene Hyams said that the new updated application only had 5 minor changes from the old application and none of the changes were of any substance. He had one issue concerning who is eligible for the placard. Ilene Hyams said there has been no change from previous applications. He then moved on to speak about the good work of a policeman who ticketed and confiscated peoples parking placards. There was no motion and no CODI action.

County Signage & Service Dogs: Ilene Hyams briefly spoke about the service animal signs in County parks. She sated the issue has been resolved. There was no motion and no CODI action.

Marlins Stadium: John Miller was not at the meeting to discuss his issue but it was said that what he had wanted is to have all CODI members share information and in the future when there were special meetings that there be a mechanism by which all members share the information. It was stated that all CODI members had gotten notes from the various meetings with the Marlins. Sandra Hix said that when she went to the meeting that one of the Braille signs was on the wrong side of the door. There was no motion and no CODI action.

Sunny Isles/Lincoln Road issue was discussed. It was stated by Dr. Lessne that although the area in question was legal these areas were not welcoming to people with disabilities. **Motion made by Pedro Rodriguez and seconded by Paul Edwards to have Jackson David, Chair of the Access Committee, write a letter to the City of Miami Beach stating that in the future there needs to be more thought on how outdoor gathering area impact people with disabilities. The motion passed unanimously.** Paul Edwards stated that it is important to put people on notice going forward when things might be legal but still not right. There was some discussion on the municipalities and Ilene Hyams suggested that the Access committee develop a strategy on how they will work with the various municipalities of Miami-Dade County.

Public forum issue - There was considerable discussion, some felt that it should only be opened if there was time at the meeting others felt it was mandatory that at each meeting able time is given to the public. **Motion was made by Pedro Rodriguez and seconded by Sam Kohlenberg to allow a permanent Open Forum for 15 minutes at the end of each meeting so the public could speak. There were 5 votes in favor of the motion and two opposed. Motion passed.**

Other Issues resolved: Airport Metrorail Access platforms- Public Sidewalks & Crossroads

Open Forum:

Dr. Lessen explained about the new ADA regulations on Valet parking. He would like training on some of the new regulations.

Ilene Hyams asked to address the request of the Chairman to extend the CODI meeting by an extra half an hour. She explained why her office was not able to consider it this budget year but suggested he could bring it up again next year. Mr. Martinez asked the Transportation Chairs to consider studying the issue of para-transit and possibly making suggestions to the County on ways to reform para-transit.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

To obtain this information in accessible format, please call 305-375-2012 or email ihyams@miamidade.gov